

VOL.24, NO.2

A Publication for the Community of Pennsauken

February 2019

AARP Tax Preparation Begins This Month At Pennsauken Library

The Pennsauken Free Public Library is once again hosting AARP tax help sessions now through April 15. Residents wishing to take advantage of this free service should be aware that there are several changes this year.

AARP tax aide counselors will be at the Pennsauken Free Public Library, 5605 N. Crescent Blvd., on Wednesdays and Thursdays, starting on Feb. 6 and continuing through April 11. Tax preparation sessions occur in the Library's Community Room. Please note that the times for tax preparation have changed for 2019. Tax preparation hours at the Library will be from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

In addition, the Library will only be accepting a limited number of walk-ins for tax preparation on a first come, first served basis. The Library's front desk will have numbered cards to give out, up to the maximum number of tax payers allowed for that day. To avoid missing the cut on a specific day or having a longer wait, individuals are strongly encouraged to schedule a time in advance, either online or over the phone.

This year, residents can register via the web using the AARP online tax preparation appointment system. To make an appointment online, visit http://bit.ly/AARPTax Scheduler; fill in the information requested;

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Reorganization Meetings Held For Municipal Government, **School Board**

By Frank Sinatra, AAP Editor

On Jan. 4, Pennsauken's Township Committee gathered for its reorganization meeting, setting up the municipal government for 2019. Held at the Pennsauken Country Club, the agenda included the swearing in of the town's mayor, deputy mayor, and new committee members, as well as appointing individuals and contractors to various professional positions.

Mayor, Deputy Mayor Sworn In, Newly **Elected Officials Take Oath Of Office**

Accompanied by his wife, Ellie; his daughters-in-law, Melissa, Kristie, and Bridget; and grandsons, Aiden and Jack III, Jack Killion was sworn in by George Piperno



Jack Killion, accompanied by his wife, daughters-in-law, and grandsons, takes the oath of office as mayor of Pennsauken Township for the second consecutive year.

to serve as Pennsauken's mayor for the second consecutive year. Killion expressed his appreciation for the municipal staff and

members of community that make the Township special.

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Programming At Pennsauken Free Public Library Celebrates Black History Month



The Pennsauken Free Public Library is hosting several events in celebration of Black History Month.

The Pennsauken Free Public Library proudly celebrates Black History Month during February with author talks, lectures, arts and crafts, story times and more.

Award Winning Journalist Returns To The Library

Ed Eisen, a longtime reporter for the Philadelphia Inquirer and the Philadelphia Bulletin, as well as a public relations

professional for over 30 years, makes his return to the Library on Sunday, Feb. 3, with "A Reporter's Front Row Seat To History, Part II." Eisen will speak about his interview with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., world boxing champ Joe Frazier, and others. This special presentation begins at 2:00 p.m. in the Library's Community Room.

The Code Quilt Of The **Underground Railroad**

A special presentation, "The Code Quilt of the Underground Railroad," will be held on Saturday, Feb. 9, at 1:00 p.m. Learn from Darlene Parker about how quilts may have been used to communicate informa-

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PROGRESSIVE



INSURANCE GROUP

FEBRUARY CALENDAR

Browning Road Senior Club

The Browning Road Senior Club invites local seniors to come and meet on the first and third Wednesdays of every month. Meetings are held at Temple Lutheran Church, 5600 Route 130, Pennsauken at 1:00 p.m. Refreshments are served; there will be a short meeting

followed by BINGO. For more information, call Pat at (609) 790-6760.

Garden Tea Party

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Athene Chapter #201 O.E.S. of New Jersey is holding a Martha Washington Garden Tea Party on Saturday, Feb. 9, at the Merchantville Masonic Lodge, 6926

nterprise

Park Ave., Pennsauken. There will be a lovely presentation by "Martha Washington," good food, and more. Doors open at 12:30 p.m., luncheon begins at 1:00 p.m. Donation is \$20 per person. For more information, call Eva at (856) 662-2118.

Classical Music Performance

St. Peter Senior Ministry is co-hosting with Partners for the Arts for an evening of classical music, Saturday, Feb. 9, 6:00 p.m. at the Senior Ministry Center, 55 W. Maple Ave. Performers will be playing the music of Beethoven, Chopin, Scriabin, Liszt, Puccini and more. Tickets are \$37.50 per person and include wine and food. To learn how to purchase tickets, call (856) 662-7577.

PASA

The Pennsauken Alliance on Substance Abuse (PASA) meets on the second Wednesday of each month. The next meeting will be on Wednesday, Feb.13, 7:00 p.m., at Temple Lutheran Church, 5600 N. Crescent Blvd. Pennsauken. PASA works to increase community awareness about substance abuse, as well as provide prevention programs. The public is invited to attend.

Town Watch

Pennsauken's Town Watch hosts its next meeting on Wednesday, Feb. 13, 7:30 p.m., at the Pennsauken Police De-

partment, Second Floor. Come learn how to make our community safer. For more information, call (856) 488-0080 ext. 2417.

American Legion

American Legion Fredrick W. Griggs Post 68 will meet on Thursday, Feb. 14, at 7:00 p.m. These monthly meetings are held at the Merchantville Community Center, 212 Somerset Ave. All veterans who served during qualifying conflicts are welcome to join. The Post has an Auxiliary Unit which also meets at 7:00 p.m. at the same location. Any ladies who are the spouse or the daughter of a veteran are welcome to join.

FlavorFest 2019

Big Brothers Big Sisters Independence Region invites guests to check out South Jersey's hippest brewery and support a great cause during its FlavorFest fundraiser, held on Wednesday, Feb. 20, at Double Nickel Brewing Company, 1585 Rt. 73, Pennsauken. FlavorFest, which runs from 5:30 to 9:30 p.m. includes all-you-can-eat food tastings from the best local restaurants and caterers; one free beer, courtesy of Big Brothers Big Sisters; and fun and games, including photo booth and raffles To purchase tickets and for more information, search for "FlavorFest 2019" on Eventbrite.com.

Half Century Jets

This senior group meets on the fourth Tuesday of every month at 1:30 p.m. in St. Cecilia's School Hall, 4851 Camden Ave., Pennsauken. This month's meeting will be on Feb. 26. For more information, call (856) 662-2721.

Birds And Beer

Do you enjoy bird watching? Have you sighted a rare bird or taken interesting bird pictures? Do you want to know where to see birds in the area? Stop by Eclipse Brewing, 25 E. Park Ave., Merchantville, on Thursday, Feb. 28, at 7:00 p.m. for "Birds and Beer." Join in for an informational hour or two while enjoying Eclipse beer. For more information, call (856) 662-7453.

Flea Market

Saint Peter's annual flea market will be held on Saturday, March 2, from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in the church's Pastor's Hall, 43 W. Maple Ave., Merchantville. This fun event features interesting items and lots of food. Vendor spots are just \$20 and include a table. For more information, call Jo at (856) 667-5237.

For advertising rates and information call 662-5100 or email allaroundpenn@aol.com





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MAYOR'S Working To Make 2019 A Great Year



By Jack Killion, Mayor of Pennsauken Township

I'm once again honored and humbled to be serving as the mayor of the great town of Pennsauken. While our Township Committee normally selects a different mayor for each year, this will be my second consecutive year serving in this capacity. It's a very special opportunity for me; I feel like I can really hit the ground running, building on the momentum of last year. I thank my fellow members of Committee

for their trust in me. I'm equally excited

to have Rick Taylor as my deputy mayor.

It's great to see him able to handle this responsibility, after the many health concerns he's had the last few years.

It's also the first time in a quite a while where we have two brand new members to Township Committee. I'd like to welcome both Jessica Rafeh and Marco Di-Battista to the start of what we hope to be a long and productive career in public service. Pennsauken will definitely benefit from your new insights and energy.

And while the first few months of 2019 are about new beginnings, there are always a few things we can count on. For February that means chocolates in heart-shaped boxes and taking the time to honor the U.S. presidents that have made a real difference in our country. Unfortunately, it also means increased chances of

snow for our part of the region. As of the writing of this article, we've been relatively lucky when it comes to snowfall: but if Old Man Winter decides to change that, we'll be ready. Our great Public Works Department has their snow plows ready; and we have plenty of salt for our roads. We'd like to remind our residents and business owners that our first priority during a significant snowfall is to make sure our major arteries are safe for our first responders. Our police, fire department, and EMS don't get to take a snow day. They're out there on the streets, every day, in all types of weather, to make sure that our community stays safe. Let's all keep our first responders in our thoughts and prayers, as they put their lives on the line for us.

So as we continue through the first few months of a new year, I would like to reiterate the commitment of the Township Committee and our municipal staff to the residents and business owners of Pennsauken. We work for you, not the other way around. If you have questions or concerns, reach out to us. If you have problems, let us know. If we've made a mistake or done something improperly, address it with us. Only by communicating with one another and truly working together can we continue to grow our great town and make Pennsauken a wonderful place to work and live.

Ribbon Cutting Officially Opens Flying Crust Pizza And Wings



Mayor Jack Killion recently helped cut the ribbon at Flying Crust Pizza and Wings, the new order and go pizza place on Park Ave. To read a review on Flying Crust, visit page 21 of this issue of All Around Pennsauken.



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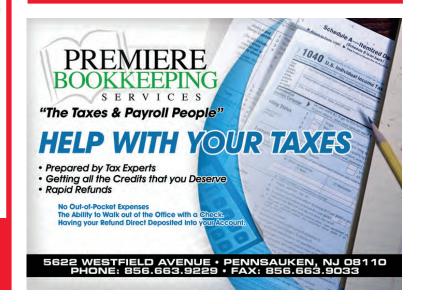
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VAGSWORLD One More Adventure With An Old Childhood Friend

By Bob Wagner, AAP Columnist

EDITOR'S NOTE: Wags was a little under the weather this month, so we're re-running his article from February 2013. He assures his readers that he'll be back with plenty to say next month.

I parked my truck in the lot above the pond. We had come here as kids, hundreds of times, mostly walking, sometimes on our bikes, from third grade on. This little pond, and the woods around it, had been our own private wilderness. filled with adventures. Chasing frogs, tur-

Walk-Ins Welcomed

tles, chipmunks, catching small fish; we roamed the paths and muddy banks, armed with slingshots and pocket knives, always on the lookout for exciting new experiences, and treasure.

Many an old, dirt-filled bottle was found. Loose railroad spikes and strange, round, glass marble-like objects lay in the bed of the railroad alongside the pond. As we grew older and bolder, we occasionally hopped a slow freight and rode South into the city, or North, sometimes as far as Riverside, before jumping off.

This was such a memorable part of

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our lives, never quite forgotten over 55 years of growing older, that it was one of the most important places on my best friend's bucket list of final resting spots.

I smiled as I walked the nice macadam path down to the water's edge, taking in all the changes that had been made over the years. A fishing pier, seats and a fire ring, the once muddy path leading almost all the way around the pond. Today's kids would have a hard time getting dirty.

My best friend from first grade on had been around the world. Hiked the Appalachian Trail, canoed across Canada, and finally settled in the wilds of Maine. I moved three blocks from where I was born. As he faced his impending death, over a long and painful couple of years, we shared old stories, past successes and failures, and plans for the future, no matOuite a few. actually. Favorite spots he felt important in his life, all in the great outdoors, in mostly remote areas. He left it to me to gather his ashes, pass them on to friends and family, and see that his final wishes were honored.

It's been a few years in the doing. Not an unpleasant task, after the initial first trips. But it is time for closure. The last trip, right to where the love of nature, water, trees, and all God's creatures began for my friend. Right here, blocks from where we lived as kids.

I opened the last film canister that held the final remains of my oldest friend. I said a silent last goodbye. As I reached out over the water, I turned slightly, as the wind suddenly blew in my face, and the slippery mud flung me on my butt, one leg in the pond, arm in the briars, and new jeans smeared in black muck.

I could hear his laughter echoing in my head as I trudged back to my truck. Going home once again to face the wrath of a good woman, brought on by muddy jeans, blackened socks, and briar pierced shirt sleeves. It was another fine adventure.

Pennsauken Police Warn Residents. **Business Owners About Recent Vehicle Burglaries**



There has been a recent increase of motor vehicle burglaries during the overnight hours. The Pennsauken Township

Police Department is taking steps to address these crimes.

Most of the burglaries involve unlocked vehicles. Pennsauken Police are urging residents and businesses to secure their vehicles. In addition, valuable items should never be left inside of a vehicle.

The Pennsauken Police also ask individuals to report any suspicious activities immediately, particularly a crime in progress, by calling 9-1-1.



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PENNSAUKEN FEBRUARY PUBLIC MEETINGS

Township Committee 5:30 p.m. Thursday, February 7 and 21

Zoning Board of Adjustment 7:00 p.m. Wednesday, February 6 and 20

Planning Board

6:30 p.m. Tuesday, February 5 and 26 Meetings are open to the public and are held at the Pennsauken Municipal Building

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Annual Welsh Heritage Day At Griffith Morgan House On March 3

By Robert Fisher-Hughes, AAP Columnist and Amateur Historian

The sounds, smells and tastes of Wales will delight and enlighten visitors to the historic, colonial home of the Morgan family in Pennsauken on the first Sunday in March from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

A warm hearth and the aromas of simple Welsh farmhouse foods prepared by a skilled cook will greet the visitors first. The sweet sounds of Welsh folk tunes performed on harp by Laura Dishong waft from the adjoining parlor evoking the legendary bards of old Cambria. "All Through the Night" has rarely sounded so sweet!

In the opposite wing of the ancient home, authentic and traditional Welsh foods will be offered for the tasting and kindling the "hiraeth," or homeward longing of Welsh heritage. While enjoying the Welsh delicacies, a display about the land and language, myths and history, migrations and persistency of the Welsh offer food for consideration as well.

At last, the more playful and boisterous expressions of Wales' heritage are embodied in the pirate crew The Sea Dogs! The spirits of Captain Henry Morgan and the dread pirate Bartholomew Roberts, among other unsavory Welshmen, will be stirred by the sea shanties and lore offered by these perennial favorites come ashore from parts unknown. Griffith Morgan, himself a Welsh mariner, would no doubt be pleased.

Griffith Morgan House is located at 243 Griffith Morgan Lane, off River Rd. between Delair and Route 73. Admis-

sion and tours are free and there is also plenty of free parking available. In addition, the Griffith Morgan House is also open for tours and research by appointment throughout the year.

Visit the Griffith Morgan House and Pennsauken Historical Society pages, or the group, "Pennsauken History Forum," on Facebook for more details and directions; call (856) 486-9561 and leave a message; or e-mail to pennsauken historicalsociety@gmail.com. Be sure to contact the Pennsauken Historical Society about volunteer opportunities; you too can make history!



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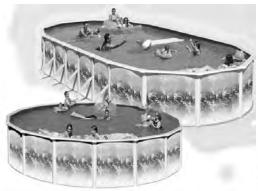
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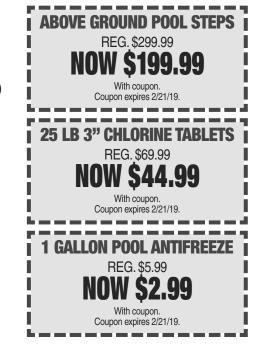
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Pole Pool Slimline 18' x 24' 52" Deep	\$1799.99	\$1399.99	Deluxe Oxford w/6" Rust Free Aluminun		es
Yorkshire w/Buttnes 15' x 24' 48" Deep	\$ 1 799.99	\$1299.99	18' Round 52' Deep 24' Round 52' Deep	\$1999.99 \$2599.99	\$1599.99 \$1999.99



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Goodwill's Annual Valentine's Bridal Sale Held On February 9

The running of the brides tradition in South Jersey will continue starting Saturday, Feb. 9, at Goodwill's annual Valentine's Bridal & All That Glitters Sale. It will take place at Goodwill's Pennsauken Store, 5461 Rt. 70. Doors open at 9:00 a.m. By popular demand, the traditional one-day sale will run all weekend long for the first time ever.

The nonprofit agency's highly anticipated sale will feature 400+ new and gently-used gowns by designers such as Maggie Sotero, Alfred Angelo, and Justin Alexander, just to name a few. Gently used gowns start at \$49; new gowns at \$99. No gown is priced higher than \$299. Beyond wedding gowns, the sale will include special occasion dresses, bridesmaid gowns, flower girl dresses, shoes, veils/tiaras, accessories, jewelry, and more. The snow date for the event is Feb. 16.

Proceeds from the sale fund Goodwill's job training programs and career services that help local residents with disabilities and disadvantages get to work, including the Helms Academy. Here, adults 18 and older can earn their high school diploma 100 percent tuition free, while simultaneously earning college credits.

A specially designated Bridal Room will be open at the Goodwill Store & Donation Center in Pennsauken on Saturday, Feb. 9, from 9:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m. and Sunday, Feb. 10, from 10:00 a.m. -6:00 p.m. The snow date is the following weekend, Feb. 16-17. Cash and credit cards are accepted as payment. Coupons are not accepted on bridal attire. All sales are final.

For crowd control purposes and to



Goodwill's annual Valentine's Bridal & All That Glitters Sale, held on Feb. 9. will feature over 400 new and gently-used gowns at reduced prices.

ensure a pleasant shopping experience, Goodwill will issue "entry tickets" to brides on Saturday morning. In years past, brides have lined up for entry tickets as early as 6:00 a.m., in hopes of finding their dream gown on a budget.

Goodwill collects donated gowns from area bridal shops all year round in preparation for this annual sale. In turn, brides have uncovered gowns worth up to \$5,000!

"With the average cost of a wedding in the Philadelphia Metropolitan area costing upwards of \$40,000, Goodwill's sale helps local brides stretch their budget," said Goodwill COO Michael Shaw. "Beyond saving valuable dollars, the sale is impactful in supporting Goodwill's charitable mission of helping individuals with special needs get to work."

gowns, but for a less chaotic shopping experience, come after noon.

- Wear a bodysuit, sports bra or swimsuit underneath clothes to expedite the "trying on" process. Dressing rooms are available, but this sale typically draws a crowd!
- Bring a friend or loved one to provide you with that ever important second opinion. Prior to the sale, show them photos from magazines of gowns you like so that they can help you pick from the racks.
- Pack light for the day (a small clutch vs. a bulky purse). Gowns are heavy and bulky!
- Avoid wearing make-up. Every bit

shows on white.

- Keep in mind that most gowns—new or used-need alterations. Letting a hem out or sides taken in can be easily done by an experienced seamstress.
- Be considerate. A gown not right for you might be on the top of someone else's list. If you don't want a gown, give it to a Goodwill employee or place it back on the proper rack.
- · Like Goodwill on Facebook, Facebook.com/GoodwillNJ, for a special sneak preview of gowns to be sold.
- Think beyond the wedding. Wedding dresses can be made into christening gowns, too. And for prom goers, there are many formalwear gowns in store.

Founded in 1948, Goodwill Industries® of Southern New Jersey is a community-based, nonprofit organization. Its mission is to put people with special needs to work. Goodwill offers a variety of career services and employment training programs that help prepare local residents with disabilities and disadvantages for success in the competitive workforce. Through the mass collection and resale of gently-used donated items, Goodwill's 20+ retail stores generate the revenue necessary to fund these worthwhile programs while contributing to America's recycling efforts. For more information on Goodwill, please call (856) 439-0200 or visit www.goodwillnj.org.

Annual Irish Nite Fundraiser Held On March 2



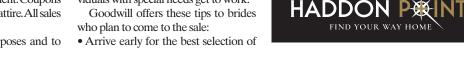
Balliná will be the musical entertainment at Mary Queen of All Saints' annual Irish Nite, held on Saturday, March 2 from 7:00 to 11:00 p.m.

Mary, Queen of All Saints Parish is hosting its annual Irish Nite fundraiser on Saturday, March 2, from 7:00 to 11:00 p.m. at Msgr. Kavanagh Hall, 48th St. and Camden Ave., Pennsauken. The event, which is BYOB, features an evening of great food and fun. Irish music provided by Balliná; beer and set-ups are provided.

Tickets are \$30 in advance, \$35 at the door. Tables of 10 or more can be reserved. Proceeds go directly to support the parish's annual expenses.

For more information, or to order tickets, call (856) 662-2721.







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Westfield Animal Hospital Closes After Serving Local Pets For Decades

By Frank Sinatra, AAP Editor

Westfield Animal Hospital has been a Pennsauken staple for 51 years, 44 of those under the watchful and caring hand of Dr. Ernest Vaughn, DVM, PA.

Dr. Vaughn moved to town in 1974 with his wife. Lillian: and after decades of caring for countless cats and dogs, as well as the occasional bird or ferret, he's decided to hang up his white coat and stethoscope

and retire. The hospital's last day was on December 31, 2018.

"Of the Westfield Animal Hospital's 51 year existence, it has been my pleasure to care for 'man's best friend' and

other 'furry family members' for 44 of those years," said Vaughn, who estimated that the hospital treated 3,000 pets annually."I have mixed feelings. I'm really glad to retire, but I really miss the dayto-day activities, caring for my patients."

Dr. Vaughn retires with countless memories of the many pets he's cared for. Regardless of the highs or lows, he wouldn't trade a second of it.

"We've been there in good times and bad. When there were positive outcomes, we rejoiced with the owners; when they lost a pet, we felt their loss." explained Vaughn. "We've always been mindful of the strong bond between family members and their pets. A sick or ailing pet means there's a sad owner. We've always been happy when we're able to help 'Chase' the dog or 'Puff' the cat recover."

Ernest and Lillian celebrated their 45th wedding anniversary last month. Mrs. Vaughn came to work with her husband every day as the hospital's receptionist, serving as the calm and caring face pet owners saw when they walked through the doors. She reminisced about being a part of the Pennsauken community for 44 years.

"We raised our two daughters here and we have six grandchildren. We've also been longtime members of Saint Matthew's United Methodist Church in Delair," said Lillian. "We've made quite of life for ourselves here."



Dr. Ernest Vaughn and his wife, Lillian, have been helping care for local pets at Westfield Animal Hospital for decades. After 44 years in practice, they have decided to retire.

As for retirement, the Vaughns plan on spending plenty of time doting on their grandchildren, five of whom live in Maryland. They also look forward to traveling. Still, Pennsauken is where they call home; and their former clients will always be family.

"We would like to thank the pet owners, our former clients, of Pennsauken and the surrounding communities for their choice of the Westfield Animal Hospital of Pennsauken as a provider of medical, surgical, and dental care for their beloved pets," said Dr. Vaughn. "The day-to-day responsibilities keep you busy. You look around and 44 years have gone by. It's been quite a ride. Thank you to everyone for their help and support."

The Vaughns are recommending Pennsauken Animal Hospital for their former clients. For more information, call (856) 662-4450 or visit Pennsauken Vet.com.

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Mayors Killion, Brennan To Speak At Next PMAC Meeting





Pennsauken Mayor Jack Killion and Merchantville Mayor Ted Brennan will be the guest speakers at the PMAC networking luncheon on Feb. 13.

Pennsauken Mayor Jack Killion and Merchantville Mayor Ted Brennan will be the guest speakers at the networking luncheon of the Pennsauken-Merchantville Area Chamber of Commerce, held on Wednesday, Feb. 13, at the Pennsauken Country Club, 3800 Haddonfield Rd.

Sign-in begins at 11:30 a.m. on Feb. 13, with the meeting starting at noon. Admission is \$25 for members, \$35 for non-members. Attendees are asked to R.S.V.P. to Nancy Ellis at (856) 438-0833 or pmac1team@gmail.com by Monday, Feb. 11.



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SENIORCORNER

By Sonny DiSabato, Senior Citizen Coordinator

Hello fellow seniors.

It's tax season again; and the Pennsauken Free Public Library is hosting free AARP tax help sessions now through April 11. Tax aide counselors will be at the Pennsauken Free Public

Seniors Receive Free AARP Tax Help Sessions At Pennsauken Library

Library, 5605 N. Crescent Blvd., on Wednesdays and Thursdays, starting on Feb. 6 and continuing through April 11. Sessions will be held at the Community Room. Be sure to read the cover story in this edition of All Around Pennsauken for more information and to learn how to set up an appointment. Don't forget: the Library is only accept-

ing a limited amount of walk-ins as opposed to last year. You really should schedule your tax preparation appointment in advance. Again, you can find all the information on the front page of this newspaper.

Line Dancing Classes For Seniors

The Camden County Board of Free-

holders presents free line dancing classes for seniors. These classes will keep the body moving and put a smile on your face!

Class sizes are limited and on a first come, first served basis, so please register early. The first class of the year will be on Friday, March 1,12:30 to 1:30 p.m., at the Carol Norcross Senior Wellness Center, Michael DiPiero Building, 512 Lakeland Rd., Blackwood. For additional dates, visit www.camdencounty.com/event/line-dancing-classes-for-seniors.

To register, contact Tom Castellano at (856) 858-2986 or tom.castellano@camdencounty.com.

Here's hoping that we have a mild rest of winter. Say a prayer for our soldiers serving overseas.

Pennsauken Lions Earn Excellence Award For 2017-2018

Clubs, the Pennsauken Lions were one of just seven that received the Club Excellence Award for 2017-2018. The award presentation was held at Ramblewood Country Club last November.

The Excellence Award is given to

Out of 66 local Lions

Lions Clubs that achieve a net growth in membership; participate in at least three service projects; and publicize its service activities through print and online media.

The Pennsauken Lions Club experienced a 22 percent growth in membership, welcoming eight new Lions in 2017-2018.

In fact, the Club just welcomed another new member, Lisa Eckel, at their December 2018 holiday dinner. Because of the influx of new members, the Lions were better able to participate in community activities, such as both Pennsauken and Merchantville's holiday parades, and the annual shopping event for the visually impaired at the Target store in Cherry Hill.

This past year, the Lions screened 835 students in Pennsauken public and parochial schools, as well as a local day

care center. This was a 68 percent increase in screenings over 2017. And as of December 2018, the Club has collected over well over \$4,000 for the purchase of a new vision camera. So in 2019, the Pennsauken Lions Club will be able to do even more eye screenings in the community. Thanks to those Lions in the Club that made this happen.

In 2019, the Pennsauken Lions Club expects to even busier than last year. If you want to be a part of this dynamic or-

ganization, the Club meets on the first and third Mondays at Macaro's Catering on Westfield Ave., Pennsauken. Cocktails and appetizers start at 6:00 p.m., followed by dinner and a short business meeting. The Lions Club will also be holding its annual membership open house dinner at the home of Lion Sharon Rush on Monday, March 18. If you would be interested in attending to meet the members, as well as enjoy a delicious dinner, contact Sharon at (856) 665-5286.

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inSchool

A "Day On" For The Martin Luther King Jr. Day Of Service



The Pennsauken Education Association, staff, students, and community volunteers gave of their time and talent during the Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service. Volunteers put together 350 care bags for a local homeless shelter. Thank you to all who participated!

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Phifer Middle School Holds First Biannual Science Showcase

Last month, Phifer Middle School held its first biannual Science Showcase. This year, the sixth graders competed in a new "Innovation Fair;" and the seventh and eighth graders participated in a traditional "Science Fair." For months, students have been hard at work developing and perfecting their projects. With help from teachers across the school, about 100 students assembled and shared their ideas with their peers.

Pennsauken is committed to providing students with a genuine science project exhibition to expose our students to an experience of competition, collaboration, and presentation. This project represents, for many students, the first challenging, mostly independent investigation of their own choosing in their young academic careers.

Their imaginations and scientific curiosity certainly showed! Projects included investigations into plant water filtration, sleep deprivation, and a device to prevent socks from being lost in the wash.

Maica Nesmith and Nicole Garcia each took first place in the Innovation Fair and Science Fair, respectively. Cayla Gordon was the overall grand prize winner, with her invention of a stylish pocket attached to a shoe in order to help at the gym or to comply with school policy.

Our participants presented to hundreds of their classmates throughout the day and did a fantastic job illustrating some of the wonderful scientific thinking happening at our school.

We look forward to the next showcase happening in May!



About 100 students presented unique and well thought out science projects during Phifer's biannual Science Showcase.

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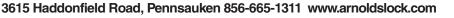
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FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

By Dr. Ronnie Tarchichi, MEd²., M.S., M.B.S., M.A.², Ed.D., Superintendent, Pennsauken Public Schools

I would like to begin this article by thanking our staff and students for another successful January at Pennsauken Public Schools. Coming back from winter break can be challenging, but you have met that challenge head on. We are now back into the

Learning Important Lessons In And Out Of The Classroom

worthwhile routine of education and learning, which will reap many benefits in the future.

I have always said that we have a wealth of great students throughout our District. As I mentioned in my article last month, we have two high school seniors that have been accepted into Ivy League schools. Davis Tran and Ngan Chiem are representative of the bright and eager minds we have in our classrooms. Rest

assured, we'll have more news to share about our students who will be continuing their education at prestigious colleges and universities.

We also have many talented student athletes. From basketball to volleyball, there's certainly a lot to cheer about. I'd like take an opportunity to highlight our ice hockey team. Pennsauken has the only public high school hockey program in the NJSIAA south of Mercer County. After getting its start last school year, our program is in the middle of its first ever varsity year.

Ice hockey is an extremely specialized sport and takes time to build. And while the season has had its many challenges, there's a lot to be excited about.

Goalie Connor Casey, a freshman, is showing a tremendous amount of promise and has opened eyes in every game. He currently has an impressive .792 save percentage with 281 saves. Connor is arguably one of the top 15 goalies in the league. Several players, including freshman Angel Garcia, who scored the first varsity goal for the team, have multiple points; and group is continuing to come together as a more cohesive unit. I'm proud of what they have accomplished and am eager to see how our team will continue to grow.

Ultimately, sports at the youth and high school levels are not truly about wins and losses. It's true that they keep score, but there are many important lessons to be learned on the court, the field, or the ice. Young people learn to work as a team, overcome numerous challenges, and face both winning and defeat with grace and humility. Sports allow

these student athletes to explore these concepts in a structured environment, helping them grow into the fine men and women we know they can be. We at Pennsauken Public Schools will continue to do our part, giving students of all backgrounds and abilities learning opportunities and educational experiences both in and out of the classroom, to prepare them for a future as productive and responsible adults.

I encourage you to check out the upcoming sports schedule on our website, Pennsauken,net, and come out to support our student athletes. Let us come together as one community and celebrate our children and their accomplishments, both academically and athletically.

Looking for online content you can't find anywhere else?
Visit AllAroundPennsauken.com



Delair's Winter Concert A Great Success

The winter concert at Delair Elementary School was a great success! The third grade students performed songs in celebration of holidays around the world. They worked hard to prepare for the concert and they had a fantastic time performing for their families and friends!





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Delair Celebrates December's Students Of The Month

Delair School celebrated Students of the Month for December with a special treat and a book read by Principal Lawrence.

The students that were chosen exhibited "cooperation" as the good character trait for that month, which included paying attention, playing nicely, keeping your hands to yourself, and using listening ears!

We had fun listening to the story by Rachel Bright called "The Lion Inside," and a good time was had by all!

Congratulations to Delair's students of the month for December!



Phifer Art Students Make Portraits For Refugee Children

Art students at Phifer Middle School are participating in a special project that connects them with refugee children across the globe.

According to the organization's website, the Memory Project is a charitable nonprofit that "invites art teachers, art students, and solo artists to help cultivate global kindness by creating portraits for children around the world who have faced substantial challenges, such as violence, war, extreme poverty, neglect, and loss of parents. These help children feel valued and important, to know that many people care about their well-being, and to provide a special childhood memory in the future." Since 2004, more than 130,000 portraits have created for children in 47 countries.

This is the first year that Phifer is participating in the Memory Project. The first round of portraits has been sent to young Rohingya refugees who fled to Bangladesh with their families to avoid



Art students from Phifer Middle School made portraits sent to refugee children as part of the Memory Project. To see more photos of the artwork created, visit AllAroundPennsauken.com.

persecution

Visual art teacher Ms. Holden would like to recognize the following students for their participation in the Memory Project: Zymiere Price, Jyselle Vega, Kaylee Lash, Imani Vega, Brandon Castillo, Kyra Elise Griffith, Angelina Thompson, Taylor Powers, Kiaraly "Shorty" Rubert Zayas, Alexis Perez, Natalie Rodriguez, Gabriella Thy

District To Hold Town Meetings In Coming Months

The Pennsauken School District has two "town hall" style meetings planned in the coming months to highlight programs available at Pennsauken Public Schools.

During these events, Dr. Tarchichi, superintendent, Pennsauken School District, will present information on academic offerings, dual-credit college affiliations, CTE programs and curriculum, and the Air Force JROTC, among others

All members of the Pennsauken community, particularly parents and

Franklin Celebrates Students Of The Month

At the end of last year, Franklin Elementary honored 21 fantastic students for earning November Student of the Month. These students exemplified the true meaning of being an outstanding student, not only in the classroom, but throughout the entire building at Benjamin Franklin Elementary School. Being student of the month is a great honor; students celebrated with cookies and juice with Mrs. Galloza, the school's principal, and Mr. Jakubowski, school counselor. Congratulations to Julien Mathis, Juliana Gabel, Luke Stewart, Taylor Gray, Santiago Soriano, Michael Cooper, Sofia Lam, Nyla Sullivan, Lucas Nguyen, John Nguyen, Chaziti Montano, Cassandra Ruano, Julian Nelson, Selenya Hodges, Laila Williams, Izabella Winter, Chloe Permaul, Sincere Portobanco, Calvin Steed, Gabriel Tavarez, and Anthony Ortiz.

PENNSAUKEN SCHOOL NEWS

For further information about the articles or events published in the Pennsauken School News section of "All Around Pennsauken" please contact:

Nicole Roberts, Editor nicole.roberts@pennsauken.net

be held on Monday, March 25, and Tuesday, April 30, at Pennsauken High School, 800 Hylton Rd. Both begin at 7:00 p.m. Optional facility tours will be available from 8:30 to 9:00 p.m.

guardians of children preparing to enter

high school in the next few years, are en-

The upcoming town hall meetings will

couraged to attend.

More information about these town hall meetings will be posted on the District's website, Pennsauken.net, in the coming weeks.

Franklin Student Council Donates Toys To Children In Need

Benjamin Franklin Student Council donates toys every in December. This year, we decided to donate to Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, to coincide with a teacher from Phifer Middle School, who was locally collecting and delivering toys there.

This project meant more than just donating a toy; it was being delivered by a family who had a firsthand experience with spending the holidays with a sick child in the hospital.

We were so happy to be able to donate to such an amazing place and are super proud of the generosity of Ben Franklin families and staff members!

Pre-K, Kindergarten Registration Begins March 4

Pre-kindergarten and kindergarten registration for the 2019-2020 school year begins on Monday, March 4.

Children must be four years old on or before October 1,2019, in order to be eligible for full day pre-kindergarten. Space is limited.

Children must be five years old on or before October 1,2019, in order to be eligible for kindergarten. If a child is already enrolled in the District for either half day or full day pre-kindergarten, they DO NOT have to be registered again for kindergarten. This registration is specifically for children entering public school for the first time.

Additional information on the registration process is available online at Pennsauken.net.

Phifer Students Come Out To Support Classmate's Performance

In December, students from the Phifer chorus, as well as the school's African American Culture Club, traveled to support their peer, Brazil Taylor, who played the lead in "The Nubian Nutcracker," a modern re-telling of the classic holiday ballet.

This event was planned as a surprise for Brazil. She had no idea that over 30 students were coming out to support her! The students were thrilled to see Brazil perform in such a hit show!

The performance was sold out, and Brazil was excited when it was revealed that a large group of them were there among the crowd! It was truly a trip to remember.



Students from the Phifer chorus, as well as the school's African American Culture Club, traveled to support their peer, Brazil Taylor, who played the lead in "The Nubian Nutcracker," modern re-telling of the classic holiday ballet.



By the Pennsauken Board of Education: Nick Perry, President; Diane Johnson, Vice President; Michael Bortnowski; Michael Hurley; Maria James; Samer John Jarbouh-Rafeh; Scott La Vine; Orlando Viera; and JoAnn Young

In the year 1947, a young African American scholar at Morehouse College in Atlanta, Georgia stated in his the student newspaper, "We must remember that intelligence is not enough. Intelligence plus character – that is the goal of true education. The complete education gives one not only power of concentration, but worthy objectives upon which to concentrate. The broad education will, therefore, transmit to one not only the accumulated knowledge of the race but also the accumulated experience of social living."

This young man, who so wholeheartedly championed building moral character through a diverse learning environment, would go on to be the world's most renowned civil rights leader and one of the most influential public figures of the 20th century. That man was Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

In honor of Dr. King's legacy, and in admiration of Black History Month, the

The Power Of Diversity: The Emerging Dynamics Of The Pennsauken School District

Pennsauken Board of Education would like to acknowledge Pennsauken School District's most valuable asset: the diversity of the student body and faculty. Pennsauken is proud to be one of the most diverse communities in New Jersey. With a wide variety of different ethnic and racial backgrounds living within a densely packed twelve mile radius bordering Philadelphia, the urban-suburban environment is fit for a progressive public school system.

A school district that welcomes diversity and inclusion into their culture helps students expand knowledge at a young age by being able to learn through a variety of different perspectives.

Students will also be better equipped with the social skills needed to compete in a highly competitive, globalized economy. Organizations are prioritizing diversity to become more innovative and efficient in their practices. A recent Harvard Business Review article by David Rock and Heidi Grant stated, "Striving to increase workplace diversity is not an empty slogan, it is a good business decision. Working with people who are different from you may challenge your brain to overcome its stale ways of thinking and sharpen its performance."

The Pennsauken Board of Education is proud to govern a district that embraces a culturally diverse learning environment. One that expands knowledge and character of its students, regardless

of race, gender, ethnicity, creed, or socioeconomic status. All students are openly welcomed at Pennsauken Public Schools to join in our mission of building a safe, challenging, and enriching institute of learning that leads to not only academic success, but also brightening the light of moral character.

This environment is no more evident than during the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service. The Pennsauken Education Association put together a wonderful event that not only brought the entire Pennsauken community together, but benefitted a local homeless shelter by putting together hundreds of care packages for those in need. Several of our board members participated and were thrilled to see so many in attendance. We thank Fatima Hayes and the PEA for their hard work in putting together this event, as well as the many teachers, sup-

port staff, students, and community stakeholders for coming together for a great purpose.

It has been over 50 years since Dr. King's passing, but his legacy lives on throughout the world. We can all learn from his teachings and his advocacy for creating a society that embraces equality, diversity, and supports an education system that provides knowledge for all people.

Carson School Enjoys Visit From Special Guests



Have you ever seen a cousin to a raccoon? An animal who does tricks or thinks a person is its mom? On Jan. 9, students at G.H. Carson Elementary School had the opportunity to see some amazing animals. Travis from Eyes of the Wild brought an African pygmy hedgehog, a Vietnamese potbelly pig, a groundhog, and a coati. The students learned what the animals eat, how they protect themselves, how they got their names and even a few tricks!

This entertaining and educational assembly was thoroughly enjoyed by the staff and students!

Travis from Eyes of the Wild brought along some amazing animals during a recent visit to Carson Elementary School.

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Adult Classes Now Forming "Join the Fun"

All Aboard The Polar Express!



In December, Delair kindergartners reenacted "The Polar Express," the famous story by Chris Van Allsburg. Students wore their pajamas to school and enjoyed a make-believe journey to the North Pole, complete with sound effects, tickets, refreshments, and special projects. It was an engaging activity to include award-winning literature to our language arts curriculum!

Students And Their Families Solve Mysteries At Carson

Who doesn't love a good mystery? Students in Pennsauken's Elementary Gifted Program and their families spent Jan. 12 solving mysteries and competing in an escape room challenge. Mrs. Nancy Tryon and Mrs. Melissa Savino planned this fun, engaging day of learning for their students and their families.

Families arrived at Carson School to find a mystery unfolding: just who borrowed Mr. Bear? With no preliminary information, families had to assume that everything could be a clue to solve the mystery. Some people drew intricate maps and took detailed notes, while others discussed each clue and pondered what it could mean. They also had a chance to use science skills to examine data more closely. Families did a great job working together and really thinking about what might have happened. After much deliberation, every person had a chance to choose the suspect they thought was responsible.

Cracking codes and unlocking locks challenged families during the escape room. Families had only 30 minutes to use their knowledge of the United States to find the magical key that allowed them to escape the library!

Mysteries are such a great way to encourage critical thinking and problem solving skills. This was a wonderful opportunity for families to come together and spend the day problem solving!

Students in Pennsauken's Elementary Gifted Program and their families spent Jan. 12 solving mysteries and competing in an escape room challenge.

Omegaman Flies In To Fine Elementary

Back by popular demand, Marc Wilkes, better known as "Omegaman," visited Fine Elementary School to speak to our 250 students about making positive choices, being an upstander (not a bystander) and Helping Everyone Respect Others (HERO). Omegaman captured the Fine youngsters' attention with his physical size, his ability to break a baseball bat over his leg, and more importantly, his message about being a "dream maker not a dream breaker."

Omegaman used powerful metaphors to help the Fine students understand messages about bullying and poor decisions. He portrayed his version of a lifetime of "bad decisions" being a weight on your shoulders starting at a young age through adulthood. To do this, he brought up Dr. Tarchichi's son, Jacob, and put him on his back to explain how bad decisions weigh you down a little, but not enough to slow a person down



Marc Wilkes, also known as "Omegaman," returned to Fine Elementary to help stress the importance of making positive choices and treating others with respect.

too much. He then asked for the biggest third grade boy to highlight the weight of bad decisions as a young adult. Finally, Omegaman asked Fine principal, Mr. Honeyman, to represent a lifetime of bad decisions and how the weight of those decisions could cripple your qual-

ity of life.

Overall, Omegaman and his messages were well received by both students and educators alike. His banners hang in the halls of Fine to remind all of us to "be a dream maker, not a dream taker," and to always be a HERO.

Students Get A Taste Of Responsibility During Phifer's Reality Fair

In December, Mrs. Dangerfield, sixth grade school counselor, hosted Phifer Middle School's first Reality Fair with Mrs. Thomas, executive director of the South Jersey Federal Credit Union.

This event exposed students to some of the financial realities of adult life. Students played a hands-on game that opened their eyes to life without the financial support of their parents or guardians. Students were able to formulate a budget, simulate paying monthly bills, and try to find ways to save money.

The event was a huge success and planning for next year's Reality Fair is already taking place, with the hope of reaching even more students.

This program is the perfect segue to a



During Phifer's first Reality Fair, students played a hands-on game that opened their eyes to life without the financial support of their parents or guardians.

new law that mandates middle school students learn about money management and life skills.

Carson Opens Second Preschool Class



Carson School opened a second preschool class in November. The students are adjusting beautifully to their first full day of school experience. Mrs. Wagner's class is seen here practicing excellent listening skills on the carpet during the story, "We All Sing With The Same Voice."

Community Invited To Lunar New Year Celebration On February 6

Pennsauken High School's Asian Students Association is sponsoring its second annual Lunar New Year Celebration on Wednesday, Feb. 6,6:00 to 8:00 p.m., in the main cafeteria of the high school, 800 Hylton Rd.

The local community is invited to an evening of free food, entertainment, and prizes.

For more information, visit Pennsauken.net

Visit AllAroundPennsauken.com

for up-to-the-minute news, community events and exclusive web content!

Singing Holiday Songs Before Winter Break



Miss Skinner, Mrs. Jakubowski, and Mrs. Voorhees' classes came together to do a holiday sing-a-long before winter break. They sang "Jingle Bells," "The Dreidel Song," "Kwanzaa is Here," and the holiday version of "Baby Shark!"





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Vacant Properties, Abandoned Vehicles And Safety Issues

By Tracey Howarth, Pennsauken Township

Over the last couple of months, we have received a number of calls from concerned citizens that prompted us to talk to you about what you should and should not do when it relates to staying safe around vacant properties.

About Abandoned Vehicles

The Township receives many calls about the removal of abandoned vehicles from neighborhoods. An abandoned vehicle is car, truck, or van that has no tags or license plates. It is probably not in driving condition and has been sitting in the same spot for an extended amount of time. These vehicles are certainly a safety hazard for many obvious

reasons. Our inspectors, when called, will come out, write a violation for the owner and give them time to have the vehicle removed. If the compliance date is not met, the owner could receive a summons to appear in court.

We receive several calls for assistance in getting these types of vehicles removed. However, the task of removing an abandoned vehicle from someone other than the owner, is something that is taken care of by our police. To have a vehicle removed, please call the Pennsauken Police Department's information desk at (856) 488-0080.

Reporting Unusual Activity

Another call we received is that of strange activity at a vacant property:

people other than the owner or a real estate agent going in and out of the property; or groups of individuals hanging around for no known reason. If you see a person or persons going in and out of a vacant property and you do not recognize them for being someone who is responsible for the property, your first call should be 9-1-1. At no time should you approach these individuals or go near the property. Call 9-1-1 and let the police handle the situation. If there is any illegal activity going on, they will address it and remove the problem. If there is any damage done to the property, or if it needs to be secured, they will contact the Township; we will either notify the property maintenance company to get

Broken Pipes

In the winter months, there is always the threat of broken pipes. If the water has not been turned off in a vacant property, the pipes may freeze, burst, or break and begin filling the property with water. This opens the possibility for greater damage to the property, possible damage to a neighboring property, and the buildup of mold. There is nothing good about broken pipes. The first call to make is the Merchantville-Pennsauken Water Commission. They

the house re-secured, or we will secure

it ourselves and lien the property.

will come out and shut the water off at the street and stop the flow of water into the house. They can be reached at (856) 663-0043. There are people on call for all emergencies, so please call them if you suspect that water is building up in the house. Once you have contacted the MPWC, please call the Township at (856) 665-1000, ext. 145. We will notify the property maintenance company of the issue and they will handle the property from there.

Please Don't Enter

Lastly, by no means or for any reason, should you ever enter a vacant property. Although a vacant home may look okay on the outside, you have no way of knowing what is happening on the inside, or what type of damage and deterioration the interior has experienced, most especially in the winter months. You can call the Township, the police department, or the water commission for any of the issues we've noted above. When in doubt, you can call the Township building and we will direct you to the team of people who can assist you the quickest. That number is (856) 665-1000.

Your safety and welfare is our first priority. Although we greatly appreciate your help and information, we never want to put you in harm's way, nor do we want you to take it upon yourself to solve one of these issues. There are just

too many unknowns with a vacant property. Call the numbers above and those departments will resolve the problem as quickly as possible.

MLK Sunday Supper Event Held At Urban Promise

On Feb. 10, from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m., the Volunteer Center of South Jersey, with event partner Epsilon Zeta Sigma Chapter of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc., is hosting a MLK Day Sunday Supper Event at Urban Promise, 3700 Rudderow St., Pennsauken. This event will consist of a light supper and a great conversation on the topic of economic opportunity.

Registration for the event is required, as seating is limited. Admission price is \$5. However, the event is free with a donation of five items from the following list: soap, shampoo, wash cloths, bath towels, sunscreen, hairbrushes, combs, razors, underwear, socks, and feminine hygiene products. All items received will be donated to the Joseph's House and other local shelters in Camden County.

For more information, or to register, search for "MLK Day 2019 - Sunday Supper Event" on Eventbrite.com.

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Susan Midili, MSN, RN, FNPBC is now accepting patients in our Pennsauken location. Susan is a well known and valued health professional who has been in the Pennsauken area for 15+ years.

Kelly Costa, PA-C has been a valued health provider with Advocare Berlin Medical Associates for several years, she brings to our location her extensive knowledge in the field of Family Medicine and Pediatrics.

They are now accepting patients at this location, please call to schedule an appointment today.

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Pennsauken Sewerage Authority

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PSA Responsibility Homeowner's Responsibility Homeowner's Sewer Line Sewer Connection

Important Customer Information

The Pennsauken Sewerage Authority is responsible for the operation and maintenance of the sanitary sewage collection system in our service area. The sanitary sewage collection system is made up of main lines, force mains and pumping stations.

The homeowner owns and therefore is responsible for the operation and maintenance of the lateral line from their dwelling up to and including the connection to the main line.

The rules and regulations of the Pennsauken Sewerage Authority require a back

flow prevention device commonly referred to as a "back check valve" be installed whenever plumbing fixtures are located below street level, such as in the basement. PSA strongly recommends all our customers have a back check valve installed to prevent contamination in the event of a main line stoppage.

The discharge of water collected in a sump pit to the sanitary sewage collection system is prohibited.

Cooking grease poured down the drain can cause a blockage of the lateral line. Please dispose of grease properly.

REMINDER:

CHECK TO SEE IF YOUR NEXT PAYMENT IS DUE THIS MONTH.

OFFICE HOURS: Monday to Thursday – 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday – 7 a.m. to 3 p.m.

PLEASE USE MAIL SLOT LOCATED IN OUR PUBLIC ENTRANCE DOOR TO DROP PAYMENTS WHEN THE OFFICE IS CLOSED.

TO PAY YOUR BILL ON-LINE – VISIT OUR WEB SITE AT **WWW.PSEWER.COM** AND CLICK ON THE BILLING BUTTON – THERE IS A \$3.95 FEE THE PROVIDER OF THE SERVICE CHARGES EACH CUSTOMER PER \$175 TRANSACTION.

If you are having a financial hardship and will be unable to pay your bill on time, or in full, please contact us at (856) 663-5542 to make payment arrangements. A simple 5-minute call could save you the inconvenience of being without water as well as the shut off fee which is currently \$75. Please do not send post dated checks to PSA without prior arrangements.

FOODADVENTURES Flying Crust Pizza And Wings Now Open On Park Avenue

By Rachael Shugars, AAP Columnist

This month I'm highlighting a really fun, tasty spot in town. Flying Crust Pizza and Wings, located at 7709 Park Ave., right near Union Ave., just opened its doors last month with a bevy of quality food options.

This is more than the average pizza joint. The menu offers everything from Po' Boy sandwiches to Asian sweet and sour wings. The pizza crust is hand tossed and made to order.

I took some family there and we opted for a fresh, hand tossed mush-

room and cheese pizza; a grilled salmon burger with avocado; and a chicken tender basket. The pizza was awesome. Toppings are fresh and the pizza has some really great flavors. The sauce isn't too acidic and the pizza is nice and cheesy. The salmon burger is all salmon and no filler; it's also a really good size and I was very full after eating it. The chicken tenders were actually pretty surprising to me. They are full of flavor and very juicy. You can get a platter of three with fries for a great price. Plus, my toddler was a huge fan! They offer any of their sauces for dipping as well. There are 14 sauces to choose from. Flavors like their mild

sauce has a kick but isn't overwhelming.

The wings are a must. They are not breaded, but rather seasoned, making them full of flavor. An order of 10 wings will only set you back about \$8. The options are vast, so I suggest doing multiple flavors in one trip if you can. You can also add one of their many side dishes to pair with your wings, like onion rings or mozzarella sticks.

You can place orders by calling (856)755-5550. Make sure to like them on Facebook under Flying Crust Pizza & Wings, You can also check out their website at FlyingCrust.com. If you like what you're reading and want more, make



Flying Crust Pizza and Wings, located at 7709 Park Ave., offers a tasty variety of pizza, burgers, wings, and more.

sure to like my Facebook page, "All Around Pennsauken Food Adventures" and always enjoy your Food Adventures!

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Free CERT Training Teaches Disaster Preparedness

As increasingly dangerous hurricanes and storms pummel the east coast, and the ever-present threats presented by global climate change loom large, many Americans are seeking education to make sure they can protect their family even in the most ominous situations. Thankfully, the Camden County Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) is making those lessons increasingly available to individuals of all ages.

"The CERT program is designed to help you protect yourself, your family, and your community in the event of disaster," said Freeholder Jonathan Young, liaison to the Camden County Department of Public Safety. "The program is completely free to participants, and includes over 20 hours of training in a single weekend. This is an excellent opportunity to give yourself and your family peace of mind in an increasingly unpredictable environment."

The training is comprised of both practical exercises and classroom instruction and includes:

- Recognizing types of hazards
- Disaster medical operations
- Fire safety
- Light search and rescue

- Lift and carries
- Debris removal techniques
- Door breaching

The training will take place over three days from March 1 to March 3 at the Mount Ephraim Fire Department located at 200 Bell Rd. in Mount Ephraim.

Pre-registration is required to take part in this training. Participants under the age of 18 must receive parent/ guardian permission to attend. If you are interested in joining the CERT Team, please register by contacting cert@camdencodps.org no later than Friday, Feb. 22.



Se Hablo Espanol



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MPWC WATERLINES

Five Tips To Prevent Frozen Pipes

- Keep the garage door closed (especially if the garage is attached to the house).
- During a deep freeze, keep the thermostat set to the same temperature day and night. Lowering the thermostat could cause pipes to freeze.
- If you're going out of town, drain the water system completely. Do this by shutting off the main valve and letting all the faucets in the home run until the system is empty (no more running water comes out of the tap).
- Check for and fill in holes or cracks in exterior walls and foundations to prevent cold air from coming into the walls.
- And remember to insulate and protect your water meter!

Have you received a direct mail piece for service line protection?

The MPWC has recognized HomeServe as a credible organization and as such, supports their efforts to market a *voluntary* service line protection program to its customers. In lieu of any monetary gain, the MPWC insisted that the lowest possible monthly rate be offered to their customers. For more information, visit us on the web at MPWC.com.



Adopt-A-Hydrant Program

With the arrival of colder temperatures, we know that inclement weather is likely just around the corner. The Merchantville-Pennsauken Water Commission, in conjunction with our local fire departments, is asking our communities to partner with us in our Adopt-A-Hydrant program.

In the event of a fire, firefighters need access to the water supply via the nearest hydrant as quickly as possible, so that the fire can be extinguished and prevent minimal loss of property and help save lives.

By adopting a hydrant, you'll be helping everyone in your neighborhood, surrounding businesses, and fire crews. When you keep your adopted hydrant free of weeds and shrubs during warmer months and clear of snow and ice in winter months, you save firefighters precious minutes while fighting fires. When the hydrants are visible and accessible, everyone benefits!

Individuals can participate by adopting a hydrant nearest their homes. This is also a great opportunity for scouts, civic groups or individuals looking to earn *community service hours*.

For more information and to apply, visit our website at **www. mpwc.com**. If you have any questions, you may e-mail hydrants@ mpwc.com.

The MPWC and your local fire departments thank you for your support!

If you've signed up to participate in our Adopt-A-Hydrant project, remember to send us your pictures! If you're clearing your adopted hydrant of snow or other debris, snap a photo so that we can share it on our Facebook page!

ATTENTION CUSTOMERS:Don't Forget to "Like" Us on Facebook!



Looking for information about the water your drink... Where does it come from? How does it get to my home? Do you want to learn more about the MPWC's ongoing infrastructure projects? Confused about how to read your water meter or calculate your bill? We've been working hard to keep our Facebook page populated with answers to our customer's most common questions. To learn more about your water service provider, just visit us on the web at www.mpwc.com and from there, click the "like us on Facebook" button.

A Reminder To Our Senior And Disabled Customers

Our senior and disabled customers are reminded that there is still time to submit their enrollment forms for their 2019 discount!

Stop by our administrative headquarters on Westfield Ave. in Pennsauken to pick up an application. You may also print a copy of the enrollment form by visiting our website at www.mpwc.com.

Our customer support representatives will be happy to assist you in completing your enrollment form. Your enrollment form requires your block and lot number, so please bring along a copy of your tax bill.

The Merchantville-Pennsauken Water Commission meets on the second Thursday of each month at 4:00 p.m.

These meetings are open to the public and are held at 6751 Westfield Avenue, Pennsauken.

Questions about your service?

Call 663-0043 Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., emergencies – call 663-0045 anytime.

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Mr. Joseph Scavuzzo, President • Mr. George Piperno, Vice President Mr. Patrick Brennan, Treasurer • Mr. Ronald Johnson, Secretary Mr. Edward Brennan, Asst. Secretary/Treasurer

Programming At Pennsauken Free Public Library Celebrates Black History Month

continued from page 1

tion to African slaves about how to escape to freedom via the Underground Railroad. After the presentation, join Library staff to help make one, big quilt.

Harriet Tubman's Journey From Slavery To Freedom

Marilyn Lake presents "Harriet Tubman's Journey from Slavery to Freedom" on Wednesday, Feb. 20, 6:00 p.m., in the Library's Community Room. Come out to see "Moses," and hear her talk about the people she met along the way. She will show items from her travels that led her and others to the promised land, using a network of safe places known as the "Underground Railroad."

"I Remember Dr. King" Storytime

A special all ages Library Storytime, "I Remember Dr. King," will be on

Wednesday, Feb. 27, 6:00 p.m., in the Library's Community Room. Featuring a performance by the amazing Mlanjeni! Magic, comedy, puppets, music and more are blended together in this mesmerizing storytelling spectacle!

Ki the storyteller is preparing for the annual Dr. King Day ceremony, but none of the forest animal puppets are planning to attend. They are preparing for a shopping spree at shopping centers with the Dr. King sales. Heated arguments begin when the animals can't agree on where they will go. Ki gets them to see why Dr. King and his philosophy remain important today.

Interested parties can receive additional information on these programs, as well as other events, by visiting the Pennsauken Free Public Library during normal business hours, or by going online to PennsaukenLibrary.org.

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AARP Tax Preparation Begins This Month At Pennsauken Library

continued from page 1

pick the date and time preferred; and click "Submit." A confirmation e-mail will be sent immediately afterwards. If the date and time requested are not available, individuals have the choice to be waitlisted. Canceling or rescheduling appointments can be done online as well at AARP.org.

Residents who don't have an e-mail address or don't want to submit information online can call (856) 665-5959 ext. 7 and leave a message with their name and phone number. An AARP tax aide counselor will respond back in 24-48 hours to answer questions and set up an appointment.

Those that come in to have your taxes prepared at the Library must bring a government-issued photo ID for all taxpayers; Social Security cards (not Medicare cards)

for each person whose name is on the tax return; ALL tax documents (W-2s, 109s, 109s, etc.); last year's tax return, whether prepared by AARP or not; and copies of their last paystub(s) for 2018, if employed last year







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HEALTHYLIFESTYLES Maintaining Teeth And Gums Helps With Overall Health

Living a healthy lifestyle involves having a balanced diet, exercising regularly, and visiting your doctor for regular checkups and wellness visits. But what about your oral health? It turns out that

there is a connection between the health of your gums and teeth and your health

Gum disease is a result of plaque, a sticky, film-like substance filled with bac-

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teria, which can build up under and along the gum line. In addition to causing infections that damage the gum and bone and lead to tooth decay, gum disease has been linked to diabetes, heart problems, stroke, and premature births. Experts believe that oral bacteria can even escape into the blood stream and cause organ damage. Gum disease can't be cured, but it is treatable. And it most certainly is preventable.

Preventing gums disease, as well as treating and preventing tooth decay, is relatively simple. It starts at home: brushing twice a day; using fluoride toothpaste and mouthwash; and flossing at least once a day. If you're a smoker and looking for another reason to quit, smoking is strongly connected with the onset of gum disease. Plus, smoking makes it harder for damaged gums to heal.



Brushing twice a day, daily flossing, and biannual dental checkups can help prevent damage to teeth and gums, as well as help maintain over-

Regular brushing and flossing is very important, but can only do so much when it comes to removing plaque and promoting gum health. Another essential part to preventing gum disease is visiting your dental professional regularly, at six month intervals, to have a dental

checkup, teeth cleaning, and in some cases, dental x-rays, to see if there is decay present underneath the hard enamel surfaces of teeth. By taking advantage of professional dental services, individuals can better maintain gum and tooth health, as well as identify and resolve issues that can lead to more serious health issues down the road.

Information in this article was provided in part by Dr. Edward Mereminsky of Mereminsky Family Dental, located right here at 6021 Mansion Blvd., Suite B, in Pennsauken, N.J. The practice offers the above mentioned den-



Dr. Edward

tal services, as well as dentures, crowns, bridges, implant restorations, and tooth whitening services, among others. For more information, call (856) 662-2333 or visit MereminskyFamilyDental.com.

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FRIENDS of the LIBRARY Friends Of The Library Holds Bake Sale On February 9

By Arlene Miller, Friends of the Pennsauken Free Public Library

Prepare to indulge your sweet tooth at our upcoming bake sale on Saturday, Feb. 9, in the Library lobby. We'll get started at 11:00 a.m. and go until 3:00 p.m., or until we run out of goodies, whichever comes first. You probably noticed that this is a bake sale, not simply a cookie sale, as we've held over the last year or so. So many people asked for brownies or cakes or nut breads at our previous "cookie" sales that it only made sense for us to offer whatever treats our creative bakers decide to bring us. So come early to get the best selection!

And by all means, if you're one of those creative bakers just mentioned, feel free to bring us something you've concocted for the sale. We'll be very happy to sell it on the 9th, and we thank vou in advance.

"Munch And A Movie" Held On February 19

Our popular, ever-interesting and funfilled "Munch and a Movie" happens on Tuesday, Feb.19, from 12:30 - 3:30 p.m. in the Community Room, It's a great way to share lunchtime with some friends and enjoy not only the snacks and beverages the Friends will supply, but also a

ever you'd like to invite and meet us for a few hours of relaxation.

Museum Pass Program At The Library

We hope you looked into the museum passes we mentioned in last month's column and have mapped out a plan for utilizing them now and as the weather warms up, although there are plenty of indoor sites to keep you out of the elements, too. You'll be able to learn more about the museum pass program if you visit pennsaukenlibrary.org. Just make sure you're a library member beforehand or plan on getting a membership now if you aren't already. You can't check out the passes without one!

Upcoming Events

Here's a heads-up for those of you marking your calendar in advance. We'll be holding four Friday afternoon chair yoga sessions beginning on March 1 at 1:00 p.m., and four Tuesday evening adult regular yoga sessions beginning on

Looking for online content you can't find anywhere else? Visit AllAroundPennsauken.com March 5 at 6:30 p.m., for those of you who prefer a somewhat more strenuous workout. The complete schedule will be forthcoming next month. Flyers for our annual art show and sale in April will be available in the library lobby and at the circulation desk beginning this month. We'll be looking for entries to be displayed, so maybe it's time to start working on a project you'll be proud to share. You'll find flyers and entry forms for our annual poetry contest at the lobby and circulation desks as well. We'll be honoring our poetry winners on May 22. And finally, details are coming together for a unique spring fundraiser you won't want to miss.

Our next Friends of the Library business meeting takes place on Wednesday, Feb. 13, 7:00 p.m., in the Community Room, so join us and let us hear your ideas for new and exciting events. We'll save you a seat!

Pennsauken Cub Scouts Offers Fun Lessons In Good Citizenship

Pennsauken Cub Scout Pack 116 is open to children, both boys and girls, from kindergarten to fifth grade.

The mission of the Boy Scouts of America is to prepare young people to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetimes by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Law.

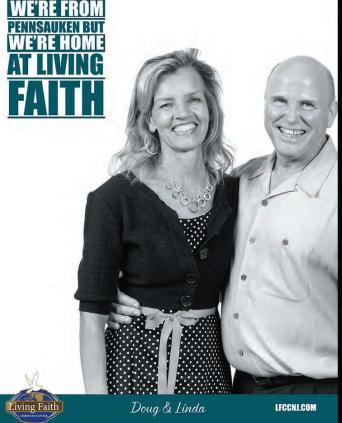
There are four aims of Scouting: citizenship, character, personal fitness, and leadership.

The methods of Cub Scouting are: living the ideals, belonging to a den, advancement, family involvement, activities, serving the community, and the uniform.

The Pack meets at Martin Luther School, 4106 Terrace Ave., Pennsauken, on the second and third Fridays of the month.

For more information, e-mail pack 116pennsauken@gmail.com or call (856) 313-7751





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GOINGGREEN Seed Starting Now Helps Prepare Plants For Spring

By Kathleen Harvey, AAP Columnist

Mid-winter can be snowy, cold and blustery. It's snowing as I write this; I dream of spring, of Mother Nature's reawakening with flowers, scents of thawing earth, and song birds returning to celebrate the coming season. Speaking of celebrations, Valentine's Day is this month. If your Valentine is a gardener, consider seeds, house plants, new gardening tools, or a book on gardening.

February is also the time to start seeds indoors for this summer's garden. New Jersey is known as the Garden State, and for good reason. Many herbs, vegetables, and flowers flourish in our zone 7a gardens, but plants need time to get established before they can be planted outside. Many of our favorite vegetable plants require a long warm growing sea-

son for best yield; if you plan to start them from seed, they need to be started indoors 6 to 8 weeks before they can be planted outside.

Starting vegetable plants early allows sufficient time for the seeds to germinate, grow to an adequate size, and be hardened off, so they can survive outdoors and provide plenty of fruits and vegetables for your table.

Starting plants like tomatoes, peppers, cucumbers, and pumpkin from seed can be fun and educational for children. Many varieties of each plant are available and greater variety is often for sale in seed form. For example, tomatoes can be found in bite-sized cherry varieties, medium sized salad tomatoes, or huge beef steak types that are great sliced on sandwiches. One of my favorite types of tomatoes are called Roma, or paste

tomatoes. They don't taste great in salads or sandwiches, but are fantastic in spaghetti sauce, known as "gravy" in local Italian neighborhoods. Pepper types include sweet bells, bananas, and hot chiles; each variety has preferred culinary uses. Cucumber varieties come in salad and pickling types; and if you've ever had homemade pickles, you'll want to add these to your list. Pumpkin varieties are available in huge, back breaking sizes for carving around Halloween, My preference is for the smaller sugar pie pumpkins, which grow to the approximate size of a bowling ball and have sweet flesh that is great in soups and pies.

Local nurseries and big box stores sell seeds and seed starting kits. Seeds can also be saved from garden grown vegetables and grown the following year. To start seeds, wet a napkin or paper towel and sprinkle seeds on the moist surface. Place each napkin in a zip lock-type sandwich baggie and place in a warm spot such as the top of a radiator for up to a week. Seeds need warmth to germinate. If a radiator or other warm - but not hot - spot isn't available in your home, heating mats can be purchased to give them a good start.

Purchase sterile seed starting mix, moisten lightly (not sopping wet), and plant once the seeds have germinated. Don't reuse old potting mix, as it contains fertilizer salts and other things that can kill the tender roots.

When the seedlings get going and have at least two sets of true leaves, they can be placed in their own small pots, 3 to 4 inches in size, to prepare them for planting in the garden. Containers must have holes in the bottom for drainage. Plastic yogurt containers with four holes punched in the bottom with skewers or scissors are a perfect size for seedlings.

Keep baby plants out of direct sun but where they will receive bright, indirect light, dampening slightly every couple of days. Gradually increase the amount of sun they get until it's time to plant outside. Don't fertilize until they are in their own pots, and then very sparingly, about 1/4 of the recommended dose.

Planning and starting a garden now will ensure a continuous supply of beautiful flowers and nutritious produce all summer long.

Pennsauken Fire Department Battles Car Fire



Last month, Pennsauken Fire Department's Engine 1132 responded to an automobile fire on the 6000 block of Camden Ave. Photo credit: Pennsauken Fire Department, Facebook.

St. Cecilia's Little Angels Preschool Receives Four Star Rating

St. Cecilia's Little Angels Preschool, located at 4800 Camden Ave. in Pennsauken, received a four star rating for their successful completion of the rigorous, research-based Grow NJ Kids quality rating program.

Grow NJ Kids is New Jersey's Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS). It offers child care and early learning programs access to training, professional development, staff scholarships for continuing education, and targeted technical assistance. Professional raters visit the program to review quality standards and then program participants receive ratings - up to five stars - by meeting an extensive list of quality benchmarks.

More than 40 states across the country have a form of QRIS. In New Jersey, the program is administered by the Departments of Children and Families, Education, Health, and Human Services.

The rating will help further the school's mission to provide an inclusive, welcoming environment that supports families, respects differences, and encourages the development of the child in all domains.

"Grow NJ Kids has enhanced our efforts to bring quality early care and education to this community," Director Victoria Caracciolo-Sullivan said. "We're proud to be Pennsauken's first preschool and childcare program to complete this rigorous process. Now our mission continues to get to the next level!"

"Grow NJ Kids offers resources to help educate parents on the importance of quality child care and early childhood education," says Andrea Breitwieser, Grow NJ Kids coordinator. "It also gives parents and families the tools needed to find programs that will make the most of their kid's early learning experiences."

St. Cecilia's Little Angels Preschool should be proud of their rating, as participation in Grow NJ Kids indicates they provide a higher standard of care, exceeding New Jersey's licensing standards, Breitwieser said.

For more information about St. Cecilia's Little Angels Preschool, visit LittleAngelsPennsauken.com; or to find participating Grow NJ Kids programs locally, visit GrowNJKids.gov.





Begging Is Bad: Human Food Can Be Toxic For Dogs

By Nancy Welsh, Pennsauken Township Animal Control Officer

We all love to keep our dogs happy and treat them when they deserve it, which is most of the time. However, you may be surprised by some of the foods that are a threat to your dog.

The first and a very common thing to have around the house is chocolate. Theobromine, a chemical compound found in chocolate, is not harmful to humans but is toxic to dogs. It is especially found in dark and baking chocolate. It can cause a dog to vomit, have diarrhea and become overly thirsty. More serious issues, which are caused by eating larger quantities or a dog's sensitivity to theobromine, are abnormal heart rhythms, seizures, tremors, and even death. Save the sweets for yourself and keep them away from your pups.

High fat foods like bacon, ham, meat trimmings, and turkey can cause pancreatitis in dogs. Since these meats are often high in salt content too, they can cause upset stomachs and in extreme cases, can cause dogs to drink too much water, leading to bloat, a condition in which the stomach twists and if not quickly corrected surgically, can be fatal. Sticking to leaner choices of meat is not only better for your dog, but for your health as well.

Popcorn, pretzels, and chips are also very salty. Salt can cause a condition called sodium ion poisoning, not to mention excessive thirst and urination, leading to dehydration or bloat.

Garlic and onions are bad news for dogs. They can actually destroy a dog's red blood cells, leading to anemia if consumed in high quantities. This is a tricky one, because a small dose of either of these may not cause any harm at all, but a large dose or regular small doses can lead to poisoning. Symptoms might include weakness, vomiting, and a loss of interest in food.

Dogs' digestive systems are not designed to process dairy products, like milk, cheese, or ice cream. They lack the enzyme to break down the milk sugar. Some dogs may be able to tolerate small doses of dairy more than others, but many are strictly lactose intolerant. They can vomit, have diarrhea or develop other gastrointestinal diseases.

Many vets are seeing health benefits from their patients who switch their dogs to raw meat diets. The majority of vets and the FDA still discourage feeding raw meat to dogs. Salmonella and E. coli infections do happen in canines and can be devastating to their health. Raw eggs have enzymes that can cause skin conditions in dogs; and raw fish can hide parasites that cause fatal diseases. There are risks to a raw diet that you would need to weigh against the benefits before you decide to try it. These risks can be reduced by freezing and proper preparation. Research and educate yourself as to the risks and stay informed.

Candy, gum, peanut butter, baked goods, and tooth paste can contain a chemical called xylitol, which can lead to a drop in blood sugar and liver failure. Symptoms include lethargy, vomiting, loss of coordination, seizures and eventually death. There are some of these foods commercially made that do not contain xylitol, so make sure to check the list before sharing with your dog.

Grapes and raisins can cause kidney failure in dogs. There have been cases documented where the kidneys of a dog failed after ingesting as few as five to seven grapes or raisins. It is best to keep these out of reach of your dog at all times

Our final bad people food for your dog is avocado. A substance called persin is found in the leaves, seeds, bark, and fruit of the avocado. It can be toxic in high doses. Once avocados ripen, the persin level drops, but why take the chance? Keep them out of reach of your dog.

So when your dog gives you "that face" while you're eating, don't give in. It's best to keep the human food to yourself.

Rotary Provides Dictionaries To Third Graders For Fifteenth Consecutive Year

For the 15th consecutive year, the Rotary Club of Pennsauken-Merchantville delivered dictionaries to all of the third grade students in Pennsauken and Merchantville, including all public and private schools.

Rotary is a service organization that has as one of its core principles to promote understanding throughout the world. Rotary believes that this can be accomplished through education and promoting literacy. Noah Webster seemed to echo Rotary's beliefs when he set about creating the first American dictionary. He felt that if there was a democracy where people were responsible for government, they should be well informed and educated. Information would come through written and spoken words. Even today, as we try to become better informed, we constantly encounter words that we don't fully understand. The dictionary solves that problem.

Rotary believes the dictionary project helps foster those goals since third grade has been identified as critical for learning and a key year to instill a lifelong love of reading. Students transform from learn-



Third graders from Delair Elementary pose with their brand new dictionaries, courtesy of the Rotary Club of Pennsauken-Merchantville.

ing to read to reading to learn.

Rotary meets every Thursday, 12:15 p.m., at Pinsetters Bar and Bowl on Maple Ave. Please feel free to attend any meeting to learn more about our organization. You may also contact the Rotary at PMRotary@yahoo.com or by calling (856) 663-0898.

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By Joe Scavuzzo, Director, Department of Public Works

As I sit to write this article on January 15,2019, I'm assessing South Jersey Sanitation's performance after their first weeks of collecting our waste in Pennsauken. For any transition occurring during a holiday week, I have to admit they pulled it out better than expected. Speaking as a resident whose trash and recycling was collected a day late. I would obviously grade them with a D-. Speaking as the individual responsible for the

A First Report Card On South Jersey Sanitation, New Business Hours, And County Events

oversight of the waste collection contract, I'd honestly give them a C-. Don't get me wrong, there are some instances where collection occurred late or was missed two weeks in a row. However, these cases are an extreme minority overall throughout town. Looking at our call/e-mail log, we show 85 missed trash complaints in their first week and 60 in their second week. The trend, as of this writing, is going in the correct direction. By the time vou read this article in early February, I expect the numbers to settle back into the number of complaints that Waste Management operated at. The goal I

have for February is that any miss is rectified by the beginning of the next business day. That means we need to be contacted ASAP when a miss occurs.

One thing I've noticed as I enter my fifth year at the Department of Public Works is that the plan for resolution of an issue means more to our residents than the cause. Although certain social media pages would rather focus on the cause of an issue, rather than work to find a solution, these types of situations remind me of something I was taught; don't be part of the problem, be part of the solution. Every e-mail or phone message that our office receives actually HELPS us to learn of issues around town; we either schedule to work on them or forward the issue to the responsible department/ agency. This assembly of data allows us to see what's happening and determine the best course of action. Timing, funding, and prioritizing of larger issues are complicating factors altogether, but for the average inquiry, we can offer a timeline on the phone or by e-mail.

New Business Hours At Public Works

The Department of Public Works complex will soon operate from 7:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. Although this seems like a half hour reduc-

tion in operation each day, we will begin working through lunch, which will end up adding a half hour to each day. You may recall our summer hours being similar. With the cooperation of management and union employees, we will be able to get more work done each week due to the elimination of break-down and start-up times resulting from lunch.

County Waste Collection Events

The County has scheduled six household hazardous waste collections for 2019, along with three electronics recvcling events. The first household hazardous waste event occurs on Saturday, March 23, at the Cherry Hill Public Works Complex at 1 Perina Blvd., Cherry Hill, N.J., from 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The first electronics waste event is April 27 at the Camden County Public Works Complex at 2311 Egg Harbor Rd., Lindenwold, NJ from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Tips To Help With Snow Plowing

I would like to offer a couple suggestions for the remaining weeks of winter that can make life easier during our snow plowing operations. By placing vehicles in your driveway before snowfall begins, our crews can open each street "curb to curb," as they are instructed to. This avoids stretches of street not being plowed as our dump trucks cannot maneuver between two parked vehicles. For my faithful readers, you may recall my 2018 articles introducing four new members of the Public Works crew. Know that this is their first winter and first snow plowing ever. You may see some streets look better than others and a couple mailboxes missing! All kidding aside, they will be learning as they go for this winter and their efforts will be supplemented with experienced personnel giving tips and guidance.

Stav safe, stav warm, and forward any and all questions to our office at (856) 663-0178 or publicworks@twp. pennsauken.nj.us.

TALKIN' TRASH

THERE ARE NO "TRASH HOLIDAYS" DURING THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY. Trash and recycling collection, as well as vard waste and white goods pickup, remain on a regular schedule.

There are no special waste collection events scheduled for this month.

For advertising rates and information call 662-5100 or email allaroundpenn@aol.com

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Reorganization Meetings Held For Municipal Government, School Board continued from page 1

"Thank you to our administration, all our departments," said Killion. "Everyone in this room is so important to Pennsauken being what it is."

Rick Taylor, accompanied by his wife, Bernice, was sworn in by Superior Court Judge Louis R. Meloni, to serve as deputy mayor for 2019. He congratulated the newly elected members of Committee and expressed his appreciation for the community's support as he recovered from his prolonged illness.

"Thank you to everyone for their thoughts and prayers," said Taylor. "I appreciate the continued support you've shown throughout the years."

Two new members of Pennsauken's Township Committee were sworn in for the very first time. Lifelong resident Marco DiBattista, who was accompanied by his wife, Lemonia, and his daughters, Sophia and Juliana, took the oath of office with former committee member Bill Orth officiating.

"I'm honored, touched, and excited to be part of the future of Pennsauken," said DiBattista. "I look forward to working on Committee and learning from Jack, Betsy, and Mr. Taylor."

"Who knew that this would be the outcome of all those detentions with Mr. Taylor," joked Marco, who was once a student at Pennsauken High School under the deputy mayor.

Jessica Rafeh, with her husband Husan by her side, was sworn in by Mayor Jack Killion. She took an opportunity to thank the Pennsauken community for trusting her to serve on their behalf.

"Thank you to everyone for their trust and support," said Rafeh. "I promise the residents of Pennsauken that I will do the very best that I can."

During her public comments, Committeewoman Betsy McBride congratulated Marco and Jessica for joining Committee, affectionately calling them "the kids." She also reflected on a momentous occasion in Pennsauken's municipal government: for the first time ever, two women are serving on Township Committee at the same time.

"I'm honored to be serving with Jessica," said McBride. "Women bring a different perspective that's important to have."

Proclamations Presented To Figueroa, Orth

Mayor Jack Killion presented proclamations to two members of Township Committee who stepped down from public service in 2018. John Figueroa, a longtime volunteer firefighter, former school board member for 14 years, and a past Public Works superintendent, had served on Committee for almost a decade.

"We gather together today to recognize John Figueroa for eight years of faithful and dedicated service to Pennsauken as a member of Township Committee," read Killion. "We celebrate John's retirement and honor the commitment he had to his duties."

Bill Orth's name is synonymous with Pennsauken; and his commitment to the town he loves and the people who live here spans decades. The head of the Pennsauken Sewerage Authority and a dedicated community advocate, Orth had been a member of Township Committee for well over 30 years, serving as mayor numerous times.

"Bill always dreamed bigger than

anyone else. No matter what the circumstances or what obstacles might stand in his way, Bill was never deterred from pursuing the best for our town," stated Killion. "Whether it was the celebration of diversity and culture through the arts with the Up With People program that helped bring our community together, or encouraging people to 'shop Pennsauken' to support our local businesses, or the dedication to bringing development to town with innovative projects, Bill has never stopped pursuing bigger and better things for our community"

Former mayor and committeewoman Geri Tabako also offered a special thank you to Orth during the public comment portion of the reorganization meeting.

"How many of us are involved because of Bill Orth? Whether you're employed by the Township, serving on a board or commission, worked on a special project, or headed up a committee, Bill Orth reached out to us and had faith that we could the job," said Tabako. "Bill saw something special in each one of us. So Bill, beyond all of your ideas for the Township, your special projects, and just your presence on Township Committee, they will all be a lasting testimony to you and your forethought for Pennsauken. And all of us you got involved, we are your legacy. And we hope that we continue to make you 'Pennsauken Proud.""

In closing, Mayor Killion encouraged those in attendance to be inspired by those who have dedicated themselves to the betterment of Pennsauken.

"Let's continue to move in a positive direction," said Killion. "Let's be leaders, like Bill Orth, John Figueroa, Geri Tabako, Steve Petrillo, and other former Township Committee members before us who helped show us the path. Let's continue and keep it going."

Board Of Education Holds Reorganization Meeting

On Jan. 3, the Pennsauken Township Board of Education held its reorganization meeting. Michael Hurley, Diane Johnson, Scott La Vine, and Samer John Jarbouh-Rafeh were sworn in by board solicitor Andrew Li. In addition, Nick Perry and Diane Johnson were once again selected as the board's president and vice president, respectively.

In his comments to those in attendance, Mr. Perry reiterated that the focus of Pennsauken's Board of Education was to work diligently to grow and enhance the District so that students succeed and are prepared for the future.

"We're on the side of the students who go to our public schools; we're on the side of the staff so we can support them any way we can; we're on the side of the superintendent to help him achieve our goals," said Perry. "If you

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Nardi Wins BroadwayWorld Philadelphia Award

Pennsauken native Frank Nardi, Jr. is one of the winners for the 2018 BroadwayWorld Philadelphia Awards. Nardi was voted "Best Supporting Actor in a Play" for his performance as Pro Football Hall of Famer Tommy McDonald in "Tommy And Me," the play written by famous sportswriter and radio/TV personality Ray Didinger.

Regional productions, touring shows, and more were all included in the awards presented by BroadwayHD, honoring productions which opened between October 1, 2017 through September 30, 2018. Nominees were readers-submitted and the public voted for their favorites



Pennsauken native Frank Nardi was voted "Best Supporting Actor in a Play" for his performance as Pro Football Hall of Famer Tommy McDonald in "Tommy And Me."

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BOOKS You'll LOVE The Library In February

There's a lot to love at the Pennsauken Free Public Library this month!

Date Night Drop Off On February 15

Do you want a fun and romantic night out? The Library is here to help with a "Date Night Drop Off" on Friday, Feb. 15, from 5:00 to 9:00 p.m. Drop the kids off and we will take care of the rest! Dinner, dessert and a movie will be provided.

This program is for children ages 5 to 12 years old. Registration is required; there is a \$5 registration fee.

Contact the Library for more information.

Blind Date With A Book Returns

The Pennsauken Free Public Library's popular "Blind Date with a Book," is

back for the month of February!

We'd like to "Fix you up" with a blind date — a book of course! After all, we are a library! All books will be wrapped up, complete with clues to identify your "mystery date." Who knows? You might get lucky with a good read!

National Library Lover's Month

Don't forget that February is National Library Lover's Month. The Pennsauken Free Public Library does much more than offer countless great books on a variety of subjects. We have a wonderful catalog of music and movies, engaging community-based programs, children's activities, and so much more. So be sure to stop by your Library and show us some love!

Library Hosts Volunteer Fair On February 23

The Pennsauken Free Public Library, 5605 N. Crescent Blvd., is hosting a volunteer fair on Saturday, Feb. 23. Held from 10:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., the event will match potential volunteers with organizations in need of help.

Volunteer organizations that would like to reserve a table to display information should contact the Library at (856) 665-5959.

PENNSAUKEN LIBRARY

856-665-5959 www.pennsaukenlibrary.org

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Monday - Thursday: 10 a.m. - 9 p.m. Friday & Saturday: 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Sunday: 1 p.m. - 5 p.m.

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February Library Events

- Friends of the Pennsauken Free Public Library Meeting Wednesday,
 Feb. 13; 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. Join the
 Friends for their monthly planning meeting.
- Munch and a Movie Tuesday, Feb. 19; 12:30 p.m. Bring a bag lunch and enjoy a FREE movie and snack, courtesy of The Friends of the Library. For this month's movie selection, please call (856) 665-5959.
- Library Board Meeting Monday, Feb. 25; 6:00 p.m. Each month, board members meet to review current issues, budget, policies, and staffing. The community is encouraged to attend.

For Children Accompanied By Their Caregivers

- Toddler Movement Saturday, Feb. 2;11:00 a.m. Join Miss Sabrina and Miss Susan for a fun and active time of music, guided movements, and dance. For ages 2-5.
- Baby Ballet Saturday, Feb. 2;11:30

 a.m. Join Miss Sabrina and Miss Susan for a fun and active time of music, guided dance movements. For ages 2-5.
- Sensory-Friendly Storytime Saturday, Feb. 2; 1:00 p.m. This program is presented at a preschool level and uses books, songs, and activities to engage in developing emerging literacy, social interaction, and both gross and fine motor skills. Ideal for children

who are differently abled, may be on the autism spectrum, have sensory processing issues, or feel overwhelmed by noises or crowds. Registration is required. For ages 2-9.

- Wee Readers Wednesdays, Feb. 6, 13,20, and 27;10:30 a.m. Storytime for little ones up to age 2.
- Preschool Storytime Wednesdays,
 Feb. 6, 13, 20, and 27; 11:30 a.m.; and
 Thursdays, Feb. 7, 14, 21, and 28; 2:00
 p.m. Storytime for children ages 3 to 5.
- LEGO Club Tuesday, Feb. 19; 4:30 p.m. You bring the creativity and imagination and we supply the LEGO and DUPLO blocks (for use in the library only). For all ages.

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Camden County Hero Scholarship Holds Annual Dinner On March 1

The Camden County Hero Scholarship Fund is holding its annual dinner on March 1, celebrating 53 years of service to Camden County, honoring and remembering public safety personnel who have made the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty and reminding their surviving families that they are not forgotten. In addition, the event will recognize those individuals who go above and beyond the call of duty, putting their lives on the line to make Camden County a safer place to live.

The dinner will be held at Lucien's Manor, 81 W. White Horse Pike, Berlin,

N.J. Cocktails are at 6:00 p.m. and the dinner begins at 7:00 p.m. Tickets are \$60 per person and include a five-hour open bar, hors d'oeuvres, sit-down dinner, dessert and program.

Seating is limited and reservations are taken on first come, first served basis. For tickets, please contact Dawn Ragan at (856)768-9656 or dawn@camdencountyhero.com.

The Camden County Hero Scholarship Fund is a non-profit organization that provides financial and educational assistance to the families of Camden County's police, fire and EMS personnel killed, or totally and permanently disabled in the line of duty. It is their policy to offer an immediate financial gift to the family within 48 hours of an incident, and once any surviving children reach college age, the Hero Scholarship program allows for them to attend any school of their choice and they will pay up to the highest New Jersey state tuition at their time of enrollment.

For more information on the Fund, or to see how you can help them to keep their promises to the children of our heroes, visit www.camdencountyhero.com.



The Short But Historical Month Of February



By Robert Fisher-Hughes, AAP Columnist and Amateur Historian

For the shortest of months, February has more than its share of history; and that includes the history of our community and its environs.

February hosts the birthdays of both George Washington and Abraham Lincoln; and therefore, Presidents' Day. February has been officially designated as

LOOKING BACK IN HISTORY

Black History Month, to cast light on that significant history significantly neglected for so much of our history.

It was in February of 1664 that the Lords Proprietors of the new English colony of New Jersey, or Nova Caesaria, issued their "Concessions and Agreements," establishing a governing structure and granting rights, including freedom of religion, to the prospective colonists they wished to attract. It was in February, one hundred and forty years later, that the New Jersey legislature passed "An Act to Provide for the Gradual Abolition of Slavery," with entirely too much deference to "gradual."

February of 1828 saw the creation of the City of Camden. February of 1844 saw the creation of Delaware Township out of Waterford Township; February of 1859 the creation of Stockton Township out of Delaware Township; and in February of 1892, the creation of Pennsauken Township out of Stockton Township.

February of 1899 witnessed one of the coldest winter months and one of the worst blizzards in our history. Starting around 8:00 p.m. on Saturday the 11th, the extreme cold and blowing winds resulted in immense drifts that lasted for days. Rail and trolley transportation were halted. People went missing when they

attempted to walk home from Camden; and one Merchantville resident was later found dead in his back yard. The winter storm interfered with the reception planned for local boys returning from service in the Spanish American War; but as they arrived, they still got a hot dinner at the armory in Camden.

It was reported that trouble was expected for the water supply in Camden due to a shortage of coal at the pumping facility in Delair. A shift and a quarter of about 11 men worked continuously to keep the water flowing, but the halt in train service meant that both coal and food were running low for the men by Tuesday the 14th. With six feet of drifted snow blocking the tracks, a sleigh had to be used to bring eatables to the stranded men.

In Merchantville, a sleigh rigged with a plow and drawn by horses was used to clear the streets. The trolleys at last began to run to Merchantville again by the 15th. One silver lining was noted in that it was unlikely that high prices or shortages would affect the supply of ice come summer, as blocks were being sawed from the Delaware River continuously.

Interestingly, in the immediate wake of the blizzard, the Camden County Historical Society came to be first organized. Perhaps the icy conditions also proved conducive to the study of historical tomes?

The recommendation for the shortest month of the year: when the snow falls and the wind howls, pull out a good volume of local history and keep warm!

Sources for this column include contemporary newspaper accounts available at Camden County Historical Society.

For advertising rates & information call 662-5100 or email allaroundpenn@aol.com

Battle Of The Badges Blood Drive A Big Success



Thank you to all those who donated blood last month as part of the Battle of the Badges Blood Drive. In several hours, the American Red Cross received 128 productive blood donations, which went on to help 378 patients in need. Congratulations also go to the Pennsauken Township Fire Department, who won the "Battle of the Badges" by recruiting the most donors for the day!



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GRAYMATTERS

Enjoying February: The Best Month Of The Year

By Judith Kristen, AAP Columnist

Ah, February! My favorite month of the year. Yup, my favorite!

Why?

Three of my dearest childhood friends were born in February; I LOVE the movie "Groundhog Day;" and I also got my driver's permit in the second month of the year.

To add to that list, The Beatles landed in America for the first time in February; and their very first appearance on The Ed Sullivan Show came two days after that. As a bonus, my favorite Beatle was born on Feb. 25; and my darling first grandchild shares that very same birth date with my beloved, totally fab, and fave Beatle, George Harrison.

Also in February, I got my first real paying job, went to my first rock concert, and last but not least, I fell in love in a February long, long, long ago.

Well, in truth, I've also fallen in love in March and April, May through September, and October and November as I recall. I was also smitten at Christmas time, and at The Mummer's Day Parade one very cold January way back when too.

'Nuff said, I'll save that for another column.

In the traditional sense, we think of the second month of the year as a trip to Punxsutawney, Pa. to see if Phil locates his shadow or not. Then, there's also Abe Lincoln's birthday on the 12th, Washington's on the 22nd, and the much later created, "Presidents' Day" that occurs on the 18th in 2019.

But, the most famous of all – pause for this Hallmark moment, please – is Valentine's Day, celebrated yearly on Feb. 14!

So, seriously, what's not to love about February, besides maybe several days of wind chill factors well below zero, plus a few crazy "left of center" holidays such as "Wave ALL of Your Fingers at Your Neighbors Day" on the 7th; "Kite Flying Day" on the 8th; and "Do a Grouch a Favor Day" on the 16th.

So, whether the weather is good or bad, celebrate the month! Is it your birthday in February? No? Then find someone whose is, give them a big hug, and go out and enjoy some birthday cake together.

Or, celebrate your own "Un-birthday." I do that 11 times a year; trust me, it's a unique, immediate, and delightful mood-boosting picker-upper. AND, you still get cake!

Or, you could buy those cute little Valentine cards we used to give out at school when we were kids, put a lovely message in there, sign your name, and then hand them out to everyone you

know: friends, family, teachers, your doctor, your pharmacist, your psychologist (I really need to call her), your dry cleaner, favorite salesperson, and even folks you don't know. It's all about the love, remember?

And, if you'd rather do something else, how about waving all of your fingers at your neighbors. If you want to wave only one finger, that's up to you. Or, you might decide to do that "grouch" a big favor and tell him to go fly a kite! I actually like the idea of that one.

See? There's something here for all of us! It's that February thing!

Peace and Love and "Un-birthday cakes."

~Judv

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Saint Matthews Holds Community Outreach Dinner



Last month, Saint Matthew United Methodist Church, 1665 Derrouse Ave., invited their neighbors and members of the Pennsauken Police Department to its first-ever community outreach dinner. Saint Matthew's held the event as a way to bring the community together for fellowship and to break down barriers. The church will hold its next outreach dinner on Thursday, Feb. 21, at 5:00 p.m.

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Country Club Golfers Raise Thousands For Veterans Causes

Since 2012, a group of golfers at the Pennsauken Country Club has helped to raise thousands of dollars for several veterans-related causes.

The "Biz Group" consists of around 30 or so golfers who play several times a week. They hold a regular "skat" game, during which players make a donation to a worthwhile cause. In 2018, the golfers raised an impressive \$4,000, which was distributed to the Philadelphia Vietnam Veterans Memorial at Penn's Landing, which includes the names of 648 service-

men who were killed in action or listed as missing in action during the Vietnam War from Philadelphia; the Patrick E. Ward Scholarship at Roman Catholic High School, honoring the alumnus from 1966 who lost his life in service to his country in the Vietnam War over 50 years ago; and the Fisher House Foundation, a non-profit that builds comfort homes where military and veterans families can stay free of charge while a loved one is in the hospital.

In the last six years, the "Biz Group"

has raised over \$11,000 for various veterans causes. Jim Bisignaro, a longtime Pennsauken resident, Vietnam veteran, and one of the main organizers of the game, explained that several golfers in their group are veterans; and that the players are grateful to be able to give back in some small way to servicemen and women and their families.

To learn more about the "Biz Group" and their charitable donations, be sure to check out the special segment on Channel 19, Pennsauken Television.



Golfers at the Pennsauken Country Club recently raised \$4,000 to benefit the Philadelphia Vietnam Veterans Memorial, the Patrick E. Ward Scholarship at Roman Catholic High School, and the Fisher House Foundation. To date, the group has raised over \$11,000 for veterans causes.

Pennsauken School District Holds "Elite Eight" Volleyball Tourney



Last month, District employees and Pennsauken's first responders went head to head in a friendly volleyball tournament. It was a fun competition and featured an exhibition from PHS volleyball alumni! Congratulations to the Phifer team, led by Mr. Killion, for taking home the trophy!

Joe's Run 5K Honors Memory Of PHS Graduate

Joseph L. Manghan, IV was a talented 2014 graduate of Pennsauken High School who fought a long, hard fight to annihilate Ewing's Sarcoma. He was 23 years old when he passed



Manghan

in October 2018. Joe's Run is dedicated to his fond memory, and is a fun, scenic race which will raise scholarship money for a deserving graphic arts student at PHS.

The race, held on Sunday, March 3, 9:00 a.m., at Palmyra Nature Cove, 1335 Rt. 73, Palmyra, N.J., features awards in the 5K for Overall Male and Female, plus first place medals for males and females in a variety of age groups. There will be a race day option to walk, which is about 1.3 miles long.

Early registration is \$20 now through 11:59 p.m. on March 1 and \$25 the day of the race. Participants should register by Feb. 20 to guarantee a t-shirt.

For more information, or to register, visit https://runsignup.com/Race/NJ/Palmyra/JoesRun5k.

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SPORTS Softball And Baseball Sign-ups Begin

PYAA softball and baseball in-person registration will begin later this month at the PYAA Field House, 3501 Elm Ave. Sign-ups will be on the following dates:

- Saturday, Feb. 23, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
- Sunday, Feb. 24, noon to 2:00 p.m.
- Monday, Feb. 25, through Thursday, Feb. 28, 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.
- Saturday, March 2, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
- Sunday, March 3, noon to 2:00 p.m.

 Monday, March 4, through Thursday, March 7,6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

PYAA Softball and Baseball are open to children living in Pennsauken and Merchantville. In addition, volunteers and coachers are needed.

For more information, visit PYAA.net.

Online Soccer Registration

PYAA Soccer is currently offering online registration only, now through Feb. 17. To sign up, visit PYAA.net.

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